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AUTHOR Shor, Ira
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ABSTRACT

Empowering education is defined as a critical-democratic pedagogy for self and social change. It is a student-centered program for multicultural democracy in school and society that approaches individual growth as an active, cooperative, and social process. The pedagogy described in this book is student-centered, but not permissive or self-centered. Neither the student nor the teacher can do whatever he or she likes. The learning process is negotiated, with leadership by the teacher, and allows for mutual teacher-student authority. Obstacles to and resources for empowering education are analyzed, suggesting ways for students and teachers to transform traditional approaches into critical and democratic ones. Examples and applications are drawn from elementary school through higher and adult education. Through empowering education, a democratic discourse can be developed to ease student-teacher alienation and promote a critical learning process. A list of 157 references is included. (SLD)

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